



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 101537A  
28 November 2018

BEN HUDSON  
MUCKROCK  
DEPT MR 37212  
411A HIGHLAND AVE  
SOMERVILLE MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Hudson:

This is a final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request letter of 3 May 2017, which was received by the National Security Agency (NSA) FOIA office on 4 May 2017, for “[a]ll requests received for the unmasking of surveillance targets for the date range 1/1/2016-4/30/2017.” As we previously informed you, we have assigned your request Case Number 101537. Please refer to this number should you need to contact us about your request. NSA has finished processing your request under the provisions of the FOIA. There are no assessable fees for this request.

NSA collects and provides intelligence derived from foreign communications to policymakers, military commanders, and law enforcement officials. We do this to help these individuals protect the security of the United States, its allies, and their citizens from threats such as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, foreign espionage, international organized crime, and other hostile activities. What we are authorized to do, and how we do it, is described in Executive Order 12333. Information about how NSA conducts signals intelligence activities is available on the websites of NSA ([www.nsa.gov](http://www.nsa.gov)) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence ([www.dni.gov](http://www.dni.gov)).

We have determined that the fact of the existence or non-existence of the materials you request is a currently and properly classified matter in accordance with Executive Order 13526, as set forth in Subparagraph (c) of Section 1.4. Thus, your request is denied pursuant to the first exemption of the FOIA, which provides that the FOIA does not apply to matters that are specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign relations and are, in fact, properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order. Paragraph 3.6(a) of Executive Order 13526 (“Classified National Security Information”) specifically authorizes this type of response, also known as a Glomar response, to such requests made under the FOIA.

In addition, this Agency is authorized by various statutes to protect certain information concerning its activities. The third exemption of the FOIA provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. Thus, your request is also denied because the fact of the existence or non-existence of the information is exempted from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA. The specific statutes applicable in this case are Title 18 U.S. Code 798; Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i); and Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605).

You may appeal this decision. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below.

- The appeal must be sent via U.S. postal mail, fax or electronic delivery (e-mail) and addressed to:

NSA/CSS FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (P132)  
National Security Agency  
9800 Savage Road STE 6932  
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932

The facsimile number is (443)479-3612.

The appropriate email address to submit an appeal is [FOIARSC@nsa.gov](mailto:FOIARSC@nsa.gov).

- It must be postmarked or delivered electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Decisions appealed after 90 days will not be addressed.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.

NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving your appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

You may also contact our FOIA Public Liaison at [foialo@nsa.gov](mailto:foialo@nsa.gov) for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Rd- OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740  
[ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
(877)684-6448  
(202)741-5770

Fax (202)741-5769

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Chapman".

JOHN R. CHAPMAN  
Chief, FOIA/PA Office  
NSA Initial Denial Authority